MARVEL

35

PAK
IENCO
BLEE

STAR WARS
DARTH VADER

FEATURING THE
GALAXY'S MOST NOTORIOUS
RELIC HUNTER

DOCTOR APHRA

TARGET APHRA

After Darth Vader convinced Sabé to fully commit to the battle against the insurgent Jul Tambor, Sabé's fellow handmaidens tried to free her from the Dark Lord's control. But Sabé returned to Vader, whom only she knows was once Anakin Skywalker.

Following a deep introspection, Sabé realized she could not give in to hate and could never truly join Vader. Vader used his remaining control of the Force to throw Sabé far out to sea.

But Vader has a new challenge--the opening of the mysterious Fermata Cage has rendered him unable to fully control his use of the Force....

GREG PAK
Writer

RAFFAELE IENCO
Artist

FEDERICO BLEE
Colorist

VC's JOE CARAMAGNA
Letterer

LEINIL FRANCIS YU & SUNNY GHO
Cover Artists

CHRIS SPROUSE, KARL STORY & NEERAJ MENON
(*Return of the Jedi* 40th Anniversary);
KHOI PHAM & BRIAN REBER;
LUCIANO VECCHIO (Pride)
Variant Cover Artists

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The *Executor*.

"WHAT IS IT, ADMIRAL?"

"IT'S *LORD VADER*...

"...HE...HE *TORE A HOLE* IN THE *HULL* OF THE *SHIP*...

"...AND WAS *SUCKED* INTO *SPACE*."

COMMANDER SABE TOOK A SHUTTLE OUT TO *FIND* HIM...

...BUT THEY'VE BOTH *VANISHED*.

FIND THEM, ADMIRAL PIETT.

OR YOU TOO MAY VANISH.

Y-YES, YOUR EMINENCE.

The Imperial Palace. Coruscant.

LORD VADER'S *POWERS*...

...THEY'RE OUT OF *CONTROL*, AREN'T THEY?

YES, *SUB-ADMINISTRATOR MOORE*.

JUST LIKE YOURS.

WHAT--WHAT'S HAPPENING?

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF THE *FERMATA CAGE?*

S-SITH *LEGEND*.

A *P-PRISON*... TO CONTAIN A TERRIBLE *THREAT*.

VERY GOOD. BUT *NOT* A *LEGEND*.

WE FOUND IT AT THE *AMAXINE STATION*.

AND WHEN OUR ENEMIES CRACKED IT *OPEN*, A MASSIVE *FORCE WAVE* SWEPT THROUGH THE GALAXY.

LIKE A GREAT *STONE* CRASHING INTO A STILL *POOL*.

YOU'VE BEEN HIT BY AN AFTERSHOCK. YOUR *SENSITIVITY* TO THE *FORCE* IS *WEAK*...

...SO YOUR *SUFFERING* IS *MINISCULE*.

NNGH!

BUT LORD VADER IS *STRONG*...

...SO HE IS NOW ALMOST ENTIRELY...

...OUT OF CONTROL.

B-BUT YOU...ARE UNAFFECTED.

BECAUSE I AM STRONGER, SUB-ADMINISTRATOR MOORE.

MAS AMEDDA.

YOU WILL OVERSEE THIS SEARCH.

YES, YOUR EMINENCE. I'LL HAVE THEM SEND PROBES AND RESCUE SHIPS TO EVERY KNOWN JUMP COORDINATE IN COMMANDER SABÉ'S SHUTTLE.

RESCUE SHIPS?

I DON'T RECALL SAYING ANYTHING ABOUT...

...RESCUE.

AH.

YES, YOUR EMINENCE.

HA HA HA HA HA.

I'M OUTTA HERE, LOSERS!

AW! ONE MORE ROUND, APHRA!

HA HA! NAH, I'M DONE FOR THE NIGHT!

COME ON...

Sesid.
Outer Rim.

...YOU'RE A FAMOUS ARCHAEOLOGIST WHO SELLS OFF JEDI ARTIFACTS...

...YOU GOT THE SCRATCH.

HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THAT?

OCHI OF BESTOON ALWAYS READS UP ON HIS OPPONENTS.

MAYBE YOU SHOULD READ YOUR CARDS INSTEAD.

AND HAVEN'T YOU LOST ENOUGH FOR ONE NIGHT, OCHI?

OH NO. I'M IN IT TO THE VERY END.

UFF. OCHI. BUDDY.

YOU GOTTA KNOW WHEN TO--

VEEP VEEP VEEP VEEP

--QUIT.

GAH!

HA HA HA!

I'D HAVE THOUGHT YOU'D HAVE *FIGURED* IT *OUT* BY NOW, DOC...

AAAAAH!

NO, NO, NO, NO--

SKRRRAAAAAAKK

KTHOK

...SOME THINGS YOU *CAN'T* QUIT.

I TOLD YOU I WOULD FIND YOU.

LORD VADER!

I--

I--

I--

DEEP BREATHS.

YOU'RE PANICKING.

IF YOU'RE *ALIVE*, YOU DON'T WANT TO *PANIC*.

YOU WANT TO *PLEAD* FOR *MORE* LIFE.

I--

...RIGHT.

L-LORD VADER...

...I...I ALWAYS KNEW THAT IT WOULD COME TO THIS.

BUT...

...BUT I'VE BEEN *USEFUL*, HAVEN'T I?

"I ACTIVATED *TRIPLE-ZERO* AND *BEETEE-ONE* FOR YOU.

"THE BEST *KILLER DROIDS* YOU NEVER KNEW YOU *NEEDED*.

"I HELPED YOU BUILD AN *ARMY* OF *DROID COMMANDOS*.

"AND I PULLED OFF THE *SON-TUUL PRIDE HEIST* FOR YOU.

"SO YOU HAD ALL THE CREDITS YOU NEEDED TO DO ALL THAT *SNEAKY STUFF* YOU WERE DOING *BEHIND* THE *EMPEROR'S BACK*."

I MEAN, YEAH, I TOLD THE EMPEROR WHAT YOU WERE *DOING* BEHIND HIS BACK...

AND PEOPLE SAY I TALK TOO MUCH.

...BUT HE *LIKED* THAT! VERY SITH-Y!

AND NOW I'M...

...I'M STILL *ALIVE*.

SO YOU...*NEED* SOMETHING?

SKRRTT

AH!

NOW SHE GETS IT.

I'M *READY*, BOSS! JUST LIKE OLD--

SURRENDER, LORD VADER, OR--

GGGAAAH!

SKRRRRRRRRRRAAAKT

BOUNTY HUNTERS!

HA HA!

BRRZZAAAM BRRZZAAAM

FRAAKOOOOOM

THOSE CHUMPS'LL *NEVER* LEARN.

AAH!

BRRRZZAAAM BRRRZZAAAM

WH-WHAT'S WITH VADER'S *STAFF?*

WHY DOESN'T HE USE THE *FORCE?*

YEAH--

--ABOUT THAT...

HUH?

SKRRRAAKDDDDDDDM

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU ASK FOR!

AAAAAAAH!

KASPLOOSSH

HIS *POWERS*...

...THEY'RE ALL MESSED UP!

YEAH. HE CAN'T *CONTROL* THEM.

THEY JUST *EXPLODE* OUT OF HIM, *FULL FORCE*.

SO EVERYONE THINKS HE'S *VULNERABLE?*

YEP.

INCLUDING THE *EMPEROR*, APPARENTLY.

THESE BOUNTY HUNTERS HAVE AN *IMPERIAL* MANDATE.

AND YET YOU'RE STICKING AROUND?

I DON'T SEE *YOU* RUNNING.

HE'S A LITTLE TOO *CLOSE* FOR THAT RIGHT NOW.

KIND OF *ALWAYS* IS, SOMEHOW.

SO... ...WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, LORD VADER?

YOU ONCE TRAPPED ME IN A *KYBERITE CONFESSIONAL.*

YOU THOUGHT IT WOULD *ECLIPSE* MY *POWERS.*

YEAH...WELL... IT *DIDN'T.*

NO HARM, NO FOUL?

WHAT *COULD?*

HUH.

WAIT A MINUTE, APHRA. THESE COORDINATES DON'T MAKE ANY SENSE...

...THERE'S *NOTHING* THERE.

YOU THINK THE *SECRET PLACES* I KNOW ABOUT WOULD STAY *SECRET* IF THEY SHOWED UP ON YOUR STAR MAPS?

PFF.

JUST FLY.

WHAT'S HE DOING IN THERE?

I DUNNO. HE'S BEEN *MEDITATING* A LOT.

I DON'T ASK ANY QUESTIONS.

I'D JUST RECOMMEND...

...NOT GETTING TOO *CLOSE*.

UKK!

WHOA.

SKYWALKER?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING--?

YOU...

AND WHO ARE YOU?

HELLO?

AH. YOU CAN'T HEAR ME, CAN YOU?

THIS IS ALL...

...JUST IN VADER'S MIND, HUH?

THERE IS...

...STILL GOOD IN HIM.

WHA--?

WHAT THE HEY...?

Ringo Vinda.

WELCOME TO THE LONG-LOST HEADQUARTERS OF *DR. ISTAN ZALY...*

...SEPARATIST SCIENTIST AND *KYBER EXPERT.*

THE *LAST* TIME YOU LED ME INTO SUCH A PLACE...

...IT WAS A TRAP.

YEAH.

SO'S THIS.

SO I SAY WE MAKE *OCHI* GO *FIRST.*

HEY!

I MEAN, *I'M* THE ONE WITH THE NECESSARY *ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPERTISE.* KINDA *INDISPENSABLE.*

OCHI'S JUST...YOU KNOW...

WAIT--

FRRNAAAAAM

AW!

KLONK

KLANK

KLANK

KLUNK

SKRRRZZZT

YOW!

BRRRZZAAAAM
BAZZZAAAMM

AGH!

PTANGG PTANG
PTTANGK

THOK

OUCH!

ALL CLEAR.

THANKS, PAL!

UH...

...DON'T FEEL SO GOOD.

YEAH, THE SEPARATISTS LIKED TO USE ROCK-WART VENOM.

NNNGH!

I NEVER MADE IT THIS FAR BEFORE.

DIDN'T KNOW HOW LETHAL THE TRAPS WOULD BE AND DIDN'T QUITE HAVE THE INCENTIVE TO FIND OUT.

GAH!

FTINK

BUT HERE WE ARE.

THE ZALY SHIELD.

IT'S MADE OF PURE KYBERITE, THE MATERIAL KYBER CRYSTALS GROW IN.

KYBER CRYSTALS ARE *ATTUNED* TO THE *FORCE*--THEY CONCENTRATE ITS ENERGIES.

EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT...

...BUT *ZALY* FIGURED OUT THAT *KYBERITE'S* KIND OF THE *OPPOSITE*. LIKE THE OTHER SIDE OF A MAGNET.

HE THEORIZED THAT THAT'S HOW THE *KYBER CRYSTALS* FORM--IN *OPPOSITION* TO THE *KYBERITE* THEY'RE FOUND IN.

ting

SO KYBERITE CAN'T *NEGATE* OR *DISSIPATE* THE FORCE, BUT IT CAN *CHANNEL* AND *GUIDE* IT.

WHICH IS HOW WE END UP WITH *THIS*.

THE SEPARATISTS THOUGHT THEY COULD USE THE SHIELD TO *AMPLIFY* WHATEVER LIMITED FORCE POWERS A PERSON MIGHT HAVE.

OF COURSE, THE *REAL* JEDI JUST MADE IT *BACKFIRE* ON 'EM.

AND IT WAS TOO *HEAVY* FOR MOST PEOPLE TO CARRY AROUND ANYWAY.

DON'T FEEL LIKE THAT'S A PROBLEM FOR YOU.

SO YOU JUST--

VVVVVVVVV

OKAY, YEAH, YOU GOT IT. JUST REMEMBER, IT'S NOT A POWER *DAMPENER.*

YOU WON'T GET BACK WHATEVER YOU CALL THE *FORCE EQUIVALENT* OF *FINE MOTOR SKILLS.*

BUT AT LEAST YOU CAN *AIM.*

NNNNNNNNNNNN

HEH HEH.

WELL, IT WAS NICE KNOWING--

FTOOO

YOU UNDERSTAND, DON'T YOU?

NNNGH...

I UPLOADED A LITTLE *SAFEGUARD* SO IT DOESN'T WORK ON *ME*.

YOU'RE *TALKING* TOO MUCH AGAIN...

...WHEN YOU SHOULD BE *RUNNING*.

NO. LORD VADER GETS IT.

I MEAN, *YOU'RE* STILL ALIVE, AND I'M ABOUT A *BAJILLION* TIMES MORE USEFUL THAN *YOU*.

HEY, KEEP ME OUT OF THIS!

I DUNNO, BOSS.

ALL I'M SAYING IS...

...I'M HERE TO *HELP*.

AND YOU SEEM A LITTLE MORE...

...*REASONABLE* THESE DAYS.

I HOPE-- SOMEDAY--YOU GET TO KNOW HOW IT FEELS.

TO DO SOMETHING GOOD.

THERE'S STILL GOOD IN HIM.

THERE *IS* STILL GOOD IN HIM.

"I HAVEN'T SEEN IT *ALL*, BOSS...

"...BUT I'VE SEEN A *LITTLE*..."

VNNNNNNNNNNNNNN

...AND ON TOP OF *ALL THAT*...

OH, SORRY.

WE INTERRUPTING SOMETHING?

...YOU'VE GOT A LOT MORE PRESSING PROBLEMS THAN *ME* RIGHT NOW.

NEXT: REVENGE OF THE DROIDS!

NEXT

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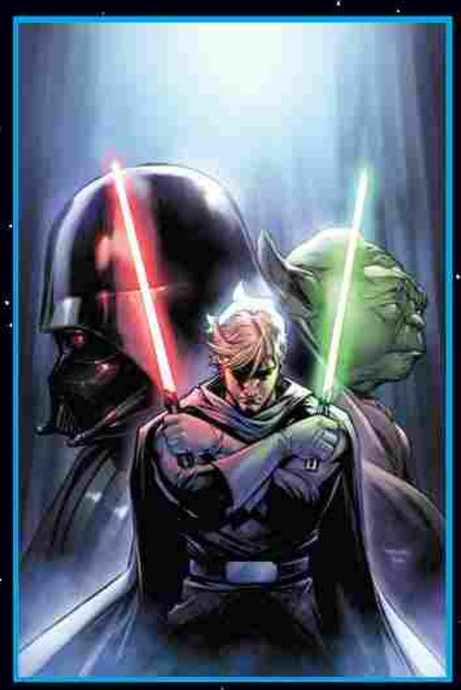
THE SAGA ALSO CONTINUES IN...



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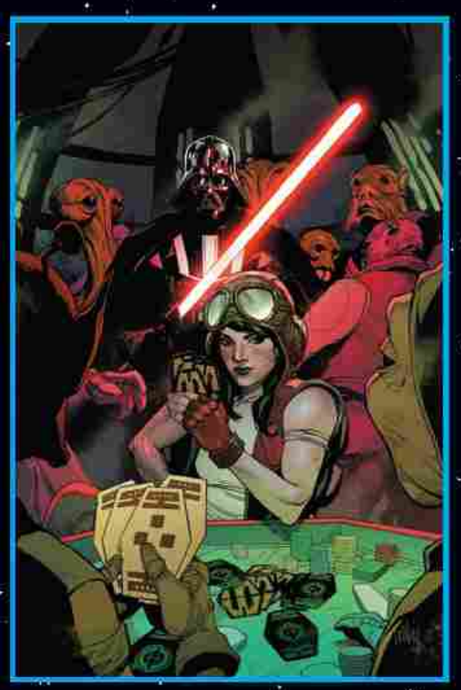

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